

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 PER-01 L-03 PM-03 SY-05 MMS-01 ABF-01 SCA-01

/068 W

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O 050450Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4243

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CDR USSAG/7TH AF NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 4009

MANILA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND EALG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, APER, LA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR REDUCTION OF MISSION STAFF

REF: A) VIENTIANE 3902 (NOTAL); B) VIENTIANE 3897 (NOTAL);  
C) VIENTIANE 3869 (NOTAL)

1. IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HABIB, WE ARE SETTING FORTH BELOW A PROPOSED TIMETABLE  
FOR REACHING THE MANDATED RESIDUAL STAFFING LEVEL OF  
ABOUT 50 DIRECT-HIRE EMPLOYEES.

2. THE LARGEST SINGLE DISCRETE GROUP WHICH REMAINS TO  
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BE REDUCED, AND ALSO THE ONE WHOSE PRESENCE IS SURROUNDED

BY GREATEST UNCERTAINTY, IS OF COURSE USAID CONTINGENT OF 33 DIRECT-HIRE EMPLOYEES (AS OF JUNE 2). THEIR TENURE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO PROGRESS, OR LACK OF IT, IN TURN-OVER NEGOTIATIONS. BY SEPTEL, WE HAVE SOUGHT AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A SITUATION IN WHICH TURNOVER NEGOTIATIONS EITHER PROCEED ON OUR TERMS OR ELSE ABORT, IN WHICH CASE WE SIMPLY ABANDON ALL USAID PROPERTY AND WALK AWAY. IF NEGOTIATIONS MOVE AT REASONABLE PACE (AND ATMOSPHERE WAS BETTER IN JUNE 4 SESSION THAN ON JUNE 2), WE BELIEVE USAID AFTER ANOTHER TEN DAYS OR SO SHOULD BE ABLE TO REDUCE ITS REMAINING PERSONNEL RAPIDLY -- PERHAPS FASTER THAN INDICATED IN TABLE THAT APPEARS BELOW -- AND REACH ZERO BY JUNE 21 (WITH POSSIBILITY THAT ONE LAO-SPEAKING USAID EMPLOYEE MIGHT REMAIN TEMPORARILY TO WORK WITH EMBASSY GSO). IF TURNOVER NEGOTIATIONS PROVE IMPOSSIBLE AND IF WE HAVE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TERMINATE THEM AND ABANDON ALL USAID PROPERTY, WE WOULD ENVISION SENDING OUT ALL BUT ONE USAID STAFF MEMBER ON A SINGLE CHARTER FLIGHT.

3. IDEALLY WE WOULD BE ABLE TO TREAT REDUCTION OF REST OF MISSION INDEPENDENTLY OF USAID, BUT IN PRACTICE THIS CANNOT BE THE CASE. AS ONE EXAMPLE, ABRUPT USAID DEPARTURE WOULD THROW ON EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION THE ADDED BURDEN OF HANDLING SEVERANCE PAY FOR USAID LOCAL EMPLOYEES. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE, OUR ABILITY TO REDUCE MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT DEPENDS DIRECTLY ON NEED TO MAINTAIN GUARD POST AT USAID HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. (GUARD POST AT DAO BUILDING WAS TERMINATED AS OF 1800 HOURS LOCAL JUNE 3.)

4. FIGURES THAT FOLLOW ARE BASED ON PRESUMPTION THAT USAID TURNOVER NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED AT REASONABLE PACE. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CAVEATS ARE SET FORTH IN SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS. FIGURES FOR COB MAY 31 (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REF A) AND COB JUNE 5 INCLUDE EMPLOYEES NOW HERE ON TDY OF INDETERMINATE LENGTH:  
DIRECT HIRE ---

5/31 6/5 6/14 6/21 6/28

EMBASSY 52 47 45 43 35

MARINE GUARDS 15 14 14 7 7

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SEABEE 1 1 0 0 0

USAID 33 25 19 0 0

USIA 7 4 4 4 3

FULBRIGHT TEACHER 1 0 0 0 0

DAO 21 8 8 8 7

CONTRACT ---

EMBASSY MAINTENANCE &

COMMISSARY 6 6 6 2 0

FEDERAL ELECTRIC	5	5	4	4	4
CONTINENTAL AIR SERV.INC.	6	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	147	112	100	68	56

5. IN GENERAL, MOST HEAVILY BURDENED AREA AT MOMENT, APRT FROM USAID, IS EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. AS ALREADY NOTED, IT BURDENS MAY GROW DRAMATICALLY WITH USAID PHASE-OUT, AND IT WILL INHERIT ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN ANY EVENT WHEN USIS EXECUTIVE OFFICER DEPARTS. WE WILL NEED CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF OVER-ALL EMBASSY FIGURE.

6. JUNE 28 FIGURE FOR DAO IS PREMISED ON OUR BELIEF THAT THE ATTACHE U-21 AIRCRAFT SHOULD RON IN VIENTIANE DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD.

7. DAO IN ANY EVENT WILL NEED TO RETAIN THE FLEXIBILITY IT NOW HAS IN SHUTTLING PERSONNEL BETWEEN UDORN AND VIENTIANE, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH CONTEMPLATED CONTINUING SMALL-SCALE DELIVERIES OF RICE AND POL TO THE FAR. (THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN ADDRESSED SEPTELS.)

8. THE USIS RESIDUAL FIGURE OF THREE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES IS A PRELIMINARY ONE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION BETWEEN STATE AND USIA. PAO BELIEVES RESIDUAL COMPLEMENT SHOULD BE FOUR, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ONE OFFICER TO COVER BI-NATIONAL CENTER.

9. SIZE OF FUTURE CONSULAR WORKLOAD IS NOT YET CLEAR, BUT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE AT RELATIVELY EARLY DATE TO DIS-PENSE WITH FULL-TIME CONSULAR POSITION AND REVERT TO SITUATION OF A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN ONE OFFICER DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN CONSULAR AND ECON/COMMERCIAL WORK.  
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12  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05

PER-01 L-03 PM-03 SY-05 MMS-01 ABF-01 SP-02 /067 W

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O 050450Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4244

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

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CDR USSAG/7TH AF NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 4009

MANILA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

10. AMONG OTHER CONSIDERATIONS STILL TO BE RESOLVED IS FATE OF AUTOVON SYSTEM, ON WHICH MOST MISSION ELEMENTS ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT. PROBLEM IS THAT AUTOVON REQUIRES PRESENCE OF FOUR CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, WHO WOULD BE REDUCED TO THREE AFTER JUNE 30. WE HAVE ADDRESSED THIS SUBJECT IN SEPTEL.

11. IN EVENT OF NEW AND MUCH MORE ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SHIP OUT ALL EXCEPT RESIDUAL (JUNE 28 COLUMN) PERSONNEL IN PERIOD OF ONE OR TWO DAYS, UTILIZING CHARTER AIRCRAFT. SUCH ACTION IS NOT IN OUR JUDGMENT REQUIRED AT PRESENT TIME, AND TO INITIATE IT AT THIS STAGE -- WHEN USAID NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING FORWARD AND SEVERANCE PAY FOR USAID LOCALS IS BEING COMPUTED -- COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.  
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12. ALL DEPENDENTS OF USG EMPLOYEES HAVE LEFT.

13. ANOTHER FACTOR OF WHICH ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE IMPINGES TO SOME EXTENT ON REDUCTION PLANNING: MISSION STILL HAS SOME 52 EMPLOYEES, MOST BUT NOT ALL USAID, WHO HOLD TAIWAN, GVN OR GKR PASSPORTS AND ARE THUS UNABLE UNDER CURRENT PGNU REGULATIONS TO OBTAIN EXIT VISAS. ONLY A MINORITY ARE TCNS IN TECHNICAL SENSE OF

HAVING BEEN BROUGHT TO LAOS BY USG, PAID IN HARD CURRENCY,  
AND ENTITLED BY CONTRACT TO REPATRIATION AT USG EXPENSE;  
MAJORITY WERE ALREADY RESIDENT HERE AND ARE PAID IN KIP  
ON SAME WAGE SCALE AS LAO FSLs. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF  
LATTER CATEGORY HAVE ALSO INDICATED DESIRE TO DEPART,  
AND MORE MIGHT DO SO IF THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY. THERE-  
FORE WE ARE DELIVERING NOTE TO FOREIGN OFFICE TODAY  
REQUESTING GROUP EXCEPTION FOR USAID EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR,  
FAMILIES, WHO HOLD SUCH PASSPORTS, CITING PARAGRAPH 2 OF  
MAY 27 AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHARGE AND SOTH PHETRASY WHICH  
CALLS FOR DEPARTURE OF ALL AMERICAN AND TCN EMPLOYEES OF  
USAID BEFORE JUNE 30. OUR NOTE OMITTS EXPLANATION OF DIS-  
TINCTIONS BETWEEN THOSE PAID IN HARD CURRENCIES AND THOSE  
PAID IN KIP, AND WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO INCLUDE SOME  
STATE AND DAO LOCALS WITH SUCH PASSPORTS UNDER THE UMBREL-  
LA OF ANY SUCH WAIVER. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A GOOD CASE  
BUT CANNOT OF COURSE ANTICIPATE FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION.  
CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

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